

Message

From: Grandinetti, Robert [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=9C73F8984588411FA3DF484D6386A013-GRANDINETTI, ROBERT]
Sent: 8/28/2018 11:50:14 PM
To: Shervey, Jerry (ECY) [GSHE461@ECY.WA.GOV]
Subject: RE: FYI ONLY: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

Thank you. I am good too.

Rob Grandinetti
CWA Enforcement Specialist
EPA Region 10
Phone: 509-376-3748

From: Shervey, Jerry (ECY) [mailto:GSHE461@ECY.WA.GOV]
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 4:49 PM
To: Grandinetti, Robert <Grandinetti.Robert@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: FYI ONLY: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

Hi Rob,

We are OK here with your analysis. I am grateful the Navy reported it to Ecology and the health authorities. My issue was the last sentence in item 4 seemed to suggest we had authority over the PSNS collection system because the sewage goes to Bremerton. Talking to you on the phone gave us the direction we needed to respond to the Kitsap Sun. I attached our press person's response to specify Ecology's jurisdiction over industrial wastewater in the sewer.

Please call or write if I can help with anything. Thank you

Gerald Shervey, PE - Industrial Unit Supervisor
Washington Department of Ecology
NW Regional Office Water Quality Program
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Bellevue, WA 98008-5452
gshe461@ecy.wa.gov
voice (425) 649-7293 cel (425) 681 3467
work hours: 8:00 am to 5:30 pm, alternate Fridays off

From: Grandinetti, Robert [mailto:Grandinetti.Robert@epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 4:05 PM
To: Shervey, Jerry (ECY) <GSHE461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: RE: FYI ONLY: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

Jerry,

I think a part of our differences in the reporting, is that where the sewage came from. The sewage did not come from the stormwater system, it came from the sanitary system, tunneled underground to the stormwater system and then went out the stormwater pipe. It is fine distinction, but one that is important in my analysis. Along with this part of the storm system not being covered under that industrial permit, and the genesis of the wastewater both dictate that the Navy was not required to report.

The spill is still an unauthorized discharge under CWA, and that part of the Navy is under EPA's jurisdiction.

Rob Grandinetti
CWA Enforcement Specialist
EPA Region 10
Phone: 509-376-3748

From: Shervey, Jerry (ECY) [<mailto:GSHE461@ECY.WA.GOV>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 1:44 PM
To: Grandinetti, Robert <Grandinetti.Robert@epa.gov>
Cc: rmcc461@ecy.wa.gov; Altose, Larry (ECY) <LALT461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Jankowiak, Amy (ECY) <AJAN461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: FW: FYI ONLY: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

Hi Rob,

We have talked a couple of times. The Navy had a sewage spill from their collection system at the Puget Sound Naval Base at Bremerton. I was involved with Ecology's initial decision to defer to EPA on an unauthorized discharge of sewage from a federal facility. We find the item in #2 from the press release below a questionable interpretation of the CWA..."Since there is no EPA permit for the Navy's sewage line, the Navy is not required to report a spill from this system to EPA. There is no requirement to report spills under the CWA." Our interpretation is this was an unauthorized discharge from the PSNS that is not authorized in EPA's permit WA0002062. The permit has standard reporting requirements that at least suggest sewage spills are a violation of the permit...

G. Twenty-four Hour Notice of Noncompliance Reporting.

1. The following occurrences of noncompliance shall be reported by telephone within 24 hours from the time the permittee becomes aware of the following circumstances:
 - a. Any unanticipated bypass which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit;
 - b. Any upset which exceeds any effluent limitation in the permit; or;
 - c. Significant spills (see definitions) into receiving waters of the following materials:
 - 100 gallons or more of domestic wastewater (sewage).
 - Any substance in excess of a reportable quantity as listed in 40 CFR 117.
 - Any substance that is classified, or could reasonable be expected to classify, as hazardous waste as required by WAC 173-303-145.

The permit also has standard 24-hour reporting requirements as most NPDES permits do. My experience with the CWA is that discharging pollutants not authorized by a permit is a violation. We need to talk to the Kitsap Sun Reporter. I will call you to discuss the press release below.

From: Altose, Larry (ECY)
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 1:05 PM
To: Shervey, Jerry (ECY) <GSHE461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Cc: McCrear, Rachel (ECY) <rmcc461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: FW: FYI ONLY: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

From: MacIntyre, Mark [<mailto:Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 1:04 PM
To: Altose, Larry (ECY) <LALT461@ECY.WA.GOV>
Subject: FW: FYI ONLY: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

As per your request....call with questions!

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 2:02 PM
To: MacIntyre, Mark <Macintyre.Mark@epa.gov>; Holsman, Marianne <Holsman.Marianne@epa.gov>
Cc: Schuster, Cindy <Schuster.Cindy@epa.gov>; Morrison, Kay <morrison.kay@epa.gov>
Subject: FYI ONLY: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

Just FYI. This inquiry is closed.

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 1:56 PM
To: 'Stanford, Julianne' <jstanford@kitsapsun.com>
Subject: RE: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

Hi Julianne,

Good news! I was able to wrangle our responses to your questions today. Hopefully this will work for you. If you need more next week, while I am out of office, please reach out to Mark MacIntyre, 206-553-7302

Your Qs and our As are below. Please do not attribute this info to me, if you must attribute, please do so only to "an EPA spokesperson." I really appreciate it.

Thanks,
Suzanne

- 1) Did any violations of environmental regulations occur with this spill? If so, would I be able to get a copy of the notice of violation?

EPA: An unauthorized (unpermitted) discharge of wastewater or other pollution into waters of the U.S., in this case Sinclair Inlet, could be a violation of the Clean Water Act. EPA is reviewing the Navy's reported blocked sewage line break. EPA does not comment on any pending or ongoing compliance or enforcement actions. EPA has not issued any Notice of Violation, as we are still gathering information.

- 2) Is there any sort of penalty for the delay in reporting the spill? Any penalty for potential violations?

EPA: The Navy's sewage line is part of the facility's sanitary/domestic wastewater collection system that goes to the Bremerton wastewater treatment plant authorized (permitted) by WA Department of Ecology. The facility's domestic wastewater collection system does not require an EPA permit. Since there is no EPA permit for the Navy's sewage line, the Navy is not required to report a spill from this system to EPA. There is no requirement to report spills under the CWA.

- 3) What is the impact of a spill of that size to the water? What's the risk to the public of potentially being exposed to contaminants in the water for the additional four days after the spill was discovered?

EPA: EPA is reviewing the Navy's reported blocked sewage line break and spill. When sanitary sewers malfunction, break or otherwise fail, they can release raw sewage. These types of releases can degrade water quality and expose humans to pathogens and viruses that can cause illness. The specific impacts to the environment or to public health from the Navy's reported blocked sewage line break and spill are unknown at this time.

- 4) I also wanted to follow up with you in regards to the Navy's wastewater/stormwater/general permits, like we spoke about earlier this week. When I checked the EPA's NPDES permits database online, it looks like PSNS' permit expired in 1999. Would you be able to send me a copy of whatever is their current permit?

EPA: The following link includes EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) final permit and supporting documents for the U.S. DOD Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Wastewater (Stormwater only) Treatment Plant discharging to Sinclair Inlet in Bremerton, Washington. Permit number: WA0002062 Effective date: April 1, 1994 Permit expires: April 1, 1999 (administratively extended) NPDES Permit for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Wastewater Treatment Plant in Washington

This is an industrial stormwater permit, and the industrial water is separate from the domestic/sanitary wastewater. This permit does not apply to the Navy's reported blocked sewage line break. Also, above the treated steam plant wastewater is their boiler water (how they heat their facilities and generate electricity, essentially hot water). Under this permit the Navy is authorized to discharge drydock drainage and noncontact cooling water from outfalls 018 (including 018A and 096) and 019, treated steam plant wastewater from outfall 021, and stormwater runoff, demineralized water, steam condensate, salt water supply system, and potable water from the remaining outfalls.

The Navy's reported blocked sewage line is part of the Navy's sanitary sewage collection system that goes to the Bremerton wastewater treatment plant authorized (permitted) by WA Department of Ecology.

- 5) The shipyard's detailed facility report on the EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online portal, it looks like PSNS has been noncompliant with the Clean Water Act for all 12 of the last 12 quarters, with two "significant" violations. That seems like quite a while to be out of compliance. Is that accurate, or has their profile not been updated? What were those significant violations?

EPA: As it shows in EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) portal, there are three permits associated with this site. Permit numbers WAP007374, WA0002062, and WAL002062. Permit WA0002062 is the EPA industrial permit that EPA administers, noted in answer #4 above. Permits WAL002062 and WAP007374 are state permits and questions about those permits should be addressed to the Washington Department of Ecology. However, the 12 quarters you reference are associated with WAP007374, and is an issue that has come up for us statewide with regards to delays in the system with data flowing from the Washington's database to EPA's database (the ECHO portal you found the info). There have been numerous facilities in Washington that show violations in EPA's system because of data flow issues, not actual violations, EPA is currently working with Washington to fix this database problem state wide.

From: Skadowski, Suzanne
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 10:30 AM
To: 'Stanford, Julianne' <jstanford@kitsapsun.com>
Subject: RE: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

Hi Julianne,

Thanks for your patience, it can be hard to wrangle our experts all at the same time, especially in the summer/vacation season.

The most likely press officer you'll be hearing from next week is Mark MacIntyre, 206-553-7302.

I'll be back in the office on Sept. 4, if you need any follow up then.

Best,

Suzanne

Suzanne Skadowski

Public Affairs Specialist | Media Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 10 Pacific Northwest - Seattle

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From: Stanford, Julianne [<mailto:jstanford@kitsapsun.com>]
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 10:22 AM
To: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

Hi Suzanne,

Thanks for your initial response to my questions. It'll definitely help me map out the story I'm working on.


I'll keep my eyes open for the responses next week. Would you be able to pass along a phone number for someone I can reach out to next week if I have any other questions?

Thanks again for all of your help!

All the best,

Julianne Stanford

Military Affairs reporter, *Kitsap Sun*

KitsapSun |  **USA TODAY
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From: Skadowski, Suzanne [<mailto:Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>]
Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 10:17 AM
To: Stanford, Julianne <jstanford@kitsapsun.com>
Subject: RE: Media query - Kitsap Sun: Puget Sound Naval Shipyard

Hi Julianne,

So far it looks like the program experts I need to help respond to your questions are all out of the office today.

In the meantime, I can give you some info on one of your earlier questions about the Navy's permits.

Please don't attribute this info, it's just for your background info only for now. I'll need to run all of this by my program staff before it becomes our official response.

The following link is EPA's Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) final permit and supporting documents for the U.S. DOD Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Wastewater (Stormwater only) Treatment Plant discharging to Sinclair Inlet in Bremerton, Washington. Permit number: WA0002062 Effective date: April 1, 1994 Permit expires: April 1, 1999 (administratively extended) [NPDES Permit for Puget Sound Naval Shipyard Wastewater Treatment Plant in Washington](#)

The above is an industrial stormwater permit, not sewage. The Navy's industrial water is separate from its domestic/sanitary wastewater system. This permit does not apply to the Navy's reported blocked sewage line break. Above the treated steam plant wastewater is their boiler water (to heat their facilities and generate electricity). Under this permit the Navy is authorized to discharge drydock drainage and noncontact cooling water from outfalls 018 (including 018A and 096) and 019, treated steam plant wastewater from outfall 021, and stormwater runoff, demineralized water, steam condensate, salt water supply system, and potable water from the remaining outfalls.

The Navy's reported blocked sewage line is part of the Navy's sanitary sewage collection system that goes to the Bremerton wastewater treatment plant authorized (permitted) by WA Department of Ecology.

There are three EPA-issued Clean Water Act permits for wastewater treatment plants in that area. The blocked sewage was not en route to any of these plants:

- Naval Air Station – Whidbey Island Seaplane Base Wastewater Treatment plant (jurisdiction with Ecology until Dec. 27, 2018). EPA permit was just issued, effective 12/27/2018).
- Naval Air Station – Whidbey Island Ault Field (expired 2/28/2016)
- Naval Base Kitsap Bangor (expired 8/31/2015)

I hope this is helpful to you.

Note: I will be out of the office next week, so I have forwarded your questions and info to my media team, and one of them will circle back to you with our responses.

Thank you,

Suzanne

Suzanne Skadowski

Public Affairs Specialist / Media Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 10 Pacific Northwest - Seattle

O: 206-553-2160 C: 206-900-3309

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From: Stanford, Julianne [<mailto:jstanford@kitsapsun.com>]

Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 9:27 AM

To: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: Media query - Kitsap Sun

Hi Suzanne,

Would Monday be possible? I'm always willing to wait a bit longer for more complete information.

I do have a few more questions – I dug around on NBK/PSNS's permits a bit more, and after looking at the shipyard's detailed facility report on the EPA's Enforcement and Compliance History Online portal, it looks like PSNS has been noncompliant with the Clean Water Act for all 12 of the last 12 quarters, with two "significant" violations. That seems like quite a while to be out of compliance... Is that accurate, or has their profile not been updated? What were those significant violations?

Also, it looks like the shipyard has three Clean Water Act permits:

- Minor, Permit Expired (WAP007374)
- Major, Permit Admin Continued (WA0002062)
- Minor, Permit Effective (WAL002062)

Are each permit for a specific system, or building? Does one of those permits regulate the system that was the source of the spill?

I apologize for all of these questions – I know a bit more about aircraft carriers than environmental permitting and I just want to make sure I have all of the details straight.

Julianne Stanford

Military Affairs reporter, *Kitsap Sun*



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Twitter: @jstanford_news

From: Skadowski, Suzanne [<mailto:Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>]

Sent: Friday, August 24, 2018 8:05 AM

To: Stanford, Julianne <jstanford@kitsapsun.com>

Subject: RE: Media query - Kitsap Sun

Hi Julianne,

No worries, that's what I'm here for!

I'll work with my program staff today to get responses back to you asap.

Are you trying to post your story today...or?

Thanks,
Suzanne

Suzanne Skadowski

Public Affairs Specialist | Media Relations

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

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From: Stanford, Julianne [<mailto:jstanford@kitsapsun.com>]

Sent: Thursday, August 23, 2018 4:58 PM

To: Skadowski, Suzanne <Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov>

Subject: Media query - Kitsap Sun

Hi Suzanne,

Thanks for bearing with all of my phone calls in the past week!

I'm looking to follow up on the wastewater spill discovered at Naval Base Kitsap last week, and I have a few questions that I hope you might be able to answer:

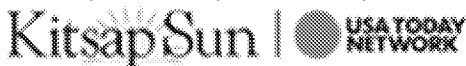
- 1) Did any violations of environmental regulations occur with this spill? If so, would I be able to get a copy of the notice of violation?
- 2) Is there any sort of penalty for the delay in reporting the spill? Any penalty for potential violations?
- 3) What is the impact of a spill of that size to the water? What's the risk to the public of potentially being exposed to contaminants in the water for the additional four days after the spill was discovered?

I also wanted to follow up with you in regards to the Navy's wastewater/stormwater/general permits, like we spoke about earlier this week. When I checked the EPA's NPDES permits database online, it looks like PSNS' permit expired in 1999. Would you be able to send me a copy of whatever is their current permit?

All the best,

Julianne Stanford

Military Affairs reporter, *Kitsap Sun*



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